



The MPRE

What is it and when to take it

Agenda

- What is the MPRE?
- When is the MPRE?
- Registration Process
- The Exam Itself
- How to Study for the MPRE?
- How to answer an MPRE Question
- What Score do I need?



What is the MPRE?

- Stands for Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam
- 60 Questions, Multiple Choice, Standardized Test
 - Only 50 of the 60 questions are graded
 - 10 are experimental
 - Scores reported on a scale ranging from 50 to 150
- Two (2) hour exam
- Computer Based Exam at a Pearson VUE Center
 - Typically, only administered in the United States
 - Exceptions were made during the pandemic
- You can take the exam anywhere and have your score sent to the jurisdiction you take the bar exam in
 - There are no state specific laws



Goal of the MPRE

- The goal is to measure your knowledge of the law governing the conduct of lawyers
- It is not a test to determine an individual's personal ethical values
- Questions are created from the following sources
 - Model Rules of Professional Conduct
 - Model Code of Judicial Conduct
 - Generally accepted principles established by leading case law and by evidentiary and procedural rules



Subject Matter of the MPRE

- Regulation of the Legal Profession (6-12%)
- The Client-Lawyer Relationship (10-16%)
- Client Confidentiality (6-12%)
- Conflicts of Interest (12-18%)
- Competence, Legal Malpractice, and other Civil Liability (6-12%)
- Litigation and other Forms of Advocacy (10-16%)
- Transactions and Communications with Persons other than Clients (2-8%)
- Different Roles of the Lawyer (4-10%)
- Safekeeping Funds and other Property (2-8%)
- Communications about Legal Services (4-10%)
- Lawyers' Duties to the Public and the Legal System (2-4%)
- Judicial Conduct (2-8%)



When is the MPRE?

- The MPRE is administered 3 times a year (March, August, and November)
- 2024 Dates
 - March 26th or 27th
 - Accommodation Deadline: December 5, 2023
 - Registration Deadline: January 25th
 - August 13th or 14th
 - Accommodation Deadline: April 24rd
 - Registration Deadline: June 12th
 - November 7th or 8th
 - Accommodation Deadline: July 24th
 - Registration Deadline: September 18th



When should you take the MPRE?

- March of your 2L Year
 - You don't need to take your Legal Profession/Professional Responsibility course to take the MPRE
 - Be aware of Spring Break
- August between your 2L and 3L Year
 - Typically, the preferred time
 - Make sure it doesn't conflict with your summer employment
- November of your 3L Year
 - Can be a busy/hectic time of year
 - Second most popular choice
- March of your 3L Year
 - Some jurisdictions don't allow you to sit if you haven't passed the MPRE
 - Be aware of Spring Break
- After the Bar Exam
 - Might delay you being admitted to practice law in your jurisdiction
 - You might be exhausted from the bar exam



Registration Process

1. Create NCBE account
2. Apply for test accommodations (if applicable)
 - You must request your accommodation before registering for the MPRE
3. Log into your NCBE account. Select Registration. Follow the instructions to complete the NCBE portion of the registration process and request your authorization to test
 - Select which jurisdiction you want to receive your MPRE score
4. Receive Authorization to Test email from Pearson VUE (within 24 hours)
 - If you requested an accommodation, ensure that the email lists your approved accommodation completely and correctly
5. Schedule testing appointment with Pearson VUE within 48 hours of receiving authorization email and pay fee (\$160)
 - You may need to create a Pearson VUE account
 - If you have been approved for accommodations, you might not be able to schedule your appointment online, refer to your Authorization to Test email for instructions
 - The MPRE is not administered at every Pearson VUE testing center
6. Receive exam and payment confirmation via email from Pearson VUE



The Exam Itself

- The only time to use any outside rules is if the question specifically tells you the language of an applicable statute or rule to use
- You will take the exam on a Pearson VUE computer (do not bring your laptop)
 - An erasable note board, marker, and timers are provided as well.
- Each question presents a fact pattern, question, and four answer choices
- Be sure to utilize the Pearson VUE Tutorial to prepare
- You will need **two** forms of original, unexpired photo identification (one must be government issued)
 - Your IDs must match the name you registered with
- Be sure to read all the instructions and follow the Test Day Policies



What Not To Bring

- Any electronic devices, including but not limited to: Cell phones, Digital watches or timers, Fitness trackers, Media players, Headphones, Language translators, Picture-taking devices
- E-cigarettes
- Firearms or other weapons
- Written materials (including books and notes)
- Scratch paper or paper of any kind
- Mechanical pencils, mechanical erasers, pencils, pens, or highlighters
- Rulers
- Briefcases, handbags, wallets, purses, or backpacks of any kind
- Watches or timers of any kind
- Larger jewelry
- Earplugs or earmuffs of any kind
- Hats and/or hoods (except religious apparel) worn on the head, bags, coats, jackets, or eyeglass cases
- Food or beverages (unless pre-authorized by the testing jurisdiction)



The Testing Center

- Most MPRE test centers have small lockers but be sure to check in advance. If possible, leave most items at home or in your car.
- Dress in layers as testing centers may feel colder or warmer to you. Just make sure you don't wear any of the prohibited items.
- Upon entering the room, you may go through a palm scan and a headshot photograph.
- You also may be asked to:
 - Empty your pockets
 - Remove jewelry and hair accessories
 - Show your ears
 - Roll up your sleeves
 - Pat yourself down



Taking the Test

- Again, make sure to do the tutorial
- A Pearson View Test Administrator (TA) will log you into your assigned workstation
 - You have up to 5 minutes to review the instructions
 - Do not use the note board until after the exam has started
- Unless otherwise instructed you should remain at your assigned seat until escorted out of the testing room by the TA
- There are no scheduled breaks with the MPRE unless you have an accommodation.
 - If you need a break, you must raise your hand and wait for the TA's instructions.
 - Your test time will not stop
 - Take your ID with you when you leave the testing room
 - You may not leave the testing center or access your personal items during your break
- After finishing the exam, raise your hand for the TA to verify that your test session has ended.
 - You will show your ID again and return the note board and marker



How to study for the MPRE

- How many hours?
 - 15-20 hours total
 - This includes roughly 4 hours of lecture videos
- When should you start prepping?
 - Roughly 2 weeks before the exam
 - You might want to start earlier if your schedule the 2 weeks prior is extremely full
 - You don't want to start too early
- Practice, practice, and then practice some more
 - Make sure to review all your answers and check to make sure you understand why you got an answer correct or incorrect
 - Learning the style and format of the questions will help you on exam day
 - This advice is also applicable to the MBE on the bar exam
- Study in small chunks of time each day to spread it out over the course of two weeks



How to Answer an MPRE Question

- Read the Call of the Question
 - Doing this before reading the fact pattern will help you to focus on the relevant facts and issues in the fact pattern and avoid distractors
- Read the Entire Fact Pattern
 - Don't assume facts/words that aren't in the question
 - Be careful to not overlook facts or create facts that aren't stated in the fact pattern
- Before looking at the answer choices, decide what answer you are going to look for
 - This will help you to avoid talking yourself out of the best answer
- But still read all Four Answer Choices
 - Even if you are positive you know the correct answer, still read all four choices as the MPRE is a best answer exam. There can be more than one correct answer
 - You are looking for the strongest answer
- Choose the Best Answer
 - Again, be careful to not talk yourself out of the correct answer.
 - Do not change your answer choice unless it is overwhelmingly clear that another answer option is the best choice



What Score do I Need?

Passing Score	Jurisdictions
75	Alabama, DC, Georgia, Mississippi, New Jersey*, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Virgin Islands
77	South Carolina
79	New Hampshire
80	Alaska, Connecticut*, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia
82	Tennessee
85	Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming
86	California, Utah

*Connecticut and New Jersey accept successful completion of a law school course on professional responsibility in lieu of a passing score on the MPRE. Wisconsin does not require the MPRE.



Free Resources

- NCBE: www.ncbex.org/exams/mpre/preparing-mpre
- Barbri: www.barbri.com/mpre-review/
- Helix: enroll.helixbarreview.org/products-and-courses/mpre/
- Kaplan: www.kaptest.com/bar-exam/courses/mpre-review-course
- Themis: www.themisbar.com/mpre



After the Exam

- Results are typically released 5 weeks after the exam
- They are posted in your NCBE File Cabinet
- The NCBE will email you that your score has been posted, but sometimes they post it early
- Save your score report from the NCBE website to a safe spot on your computer
 - Your score is only available until the next MPRE administration
- If you decide you are taking the bar exam in a different jurisdiction than you originally indicated when you registered for the MPRE, you can send your score to your new jurisdiction for a \$30 fee



Still have Questions?

Thank you! If you have any questions, you can either:

- Email me at sparker@law.Harvard.edu or
- Schedule an appointment with me at: calendly.com/sparker-hlsdos

And if you are a 1L or 2L, keep track of the casework you perform this summer for conflict checks in the future!

If you are thinking of taking the NY bar exam, let's talk about the Pro Bono Affidavit!

